

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 13-19 are presently pending in this application, Claims 9-11 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 1 and 13-16 having been amended, and Claims 17-19 having been newly added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Perry (U.S. Patent No. 4,998,814); and Claims 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perry in view of Sorum et al. (U.S. Patent 6,516,741).

Applicants note that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) together with duly completed Forms PTO-1449, filed on September 9, 2004, has not yet been acknowledged as being received and considered. Therefore, Applicants request acknowledgement of this IDS in the next Office Action.

Amended Claims 1 and 13-16 and new Claims 17-19 are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. For example, amended Claim 1 is supported by Fig. 2; Claims 13-16 have been amended only to correct dependency; new Claim 17 is supported by Fig. 2 and the specification at page 7, lines 7-15; new Claim 18 is supported by Fig. 2; and new Claim 19 is supported by Fig. 1 and the specification at page 8, lines 21-23. Applicants therefore submit that no new matter has been introduced.

Briefly recapitulating, Claim 1 is directed to a mirror base. For example, referring to the non-limiting embodiment of Figs. 1 and 2, a mirror base 1 includes a mount piece 1A to be mounted on a car, a support piece 1B projecting from the mount piece 1A, and a reinforcing core member 3. The support piece 1B is adopted to support a mirror body 2. The mount piece 1A and the support piece 1B are integrally made of a resin. The reinforcing core member 3 is

separately formed from the mount piece 1A and the support piece 1B, and is buried inside across the mount piece 1A and the support piece 1B. The reinforcing core member 3 includes a continuous flange 3A formed along only an outermost marginal edge of the reinforcing core member 3.

Accordingly, in the present invention recited in Claim 1, because the reinforcing core member includes a continuous flange formed **along only an outermost marginal edge** of the reinforcing core member, the structure of the reinforcing core is kept simple while the reinforcing core member secures the sufficient flexural rigidity of the support piece relative to the mount piece.¹

The Office Action asserts that Perry discloses a mount piece (31-34, 50 and 52), a support piece (40a and 60a-c) and a reinforcing core member (36). Nevertheless, Perry fails to disclose that the reinforcing core member includes a continuous flange formed **along only an outermost marginal edge** of the reinforcing core member. As shown in Fig. 3 in Perry, the reinforcing core member (36) is provided to the mount piece (31-34, 50 and 52) and the support piece (40a and 60a-c), in a form of truss walls (40a-b) connecting to two walls (32 and 34) of the mount piece. Thus, unlike the reinforcing core as recited in Claim 1 of the present application, the structure of the reinforcing core cannot be kept simple.²

Accordingly, Perry is not believed in any way to anticipate the specific features recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Substantially the same arguments as set forth above with regard to Claim 1 also apply to dependent Claims 2-8 and 13-18, which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1.

Accordingly, each of the dependent claims is also believed to be allowable.

Turning now to new independent Claim 19, Claim 19 is directed to a mirror assembly.

¹ See the present specification at page 8, line 24, to page 9, line 7, and Figs. 1 and 2.

² See Perry at column 2, lines 48-61.

For example, referring to the non-limiting embodiment of Figs. 1 and 2, the mirror assembly comprises a mirror base 1 and a mirror body 2. The mirror base 1 includes a mount piece 1A to be mounted on a car, a support piece 1B projecting from the mount piece 1A, and a reinforcing core member 3. The mount piece 1A and the support piece 1B are integrally made of a resin. The reinforcing core member 3 is separately formed from the mount piece 1A and the support piece 1B, and is buried inside across the mount piece 1A and the support piece 1B. The reinforcing core member 3 includes a continuous flange 3A formed in a marginal region of the reinforcing core member 3. The mirror body 2 is fixed to the mirror base 1 only at the support piece 1B which includes the reinforcing core member 3.

Accordingly, in the present invention recited in Claim 19, because **the mirror body is fixed to the mirror base only at the support piece** which includes the reinforcing core member, the structure of the mirror assembly is kept simple.

The Office Action asserts that Perry discloses that a support piece (40a and 60a-c) projects from a mount piece (31-34, 50 and 52) and adopted to support a mirror body. Nevertheless, Perry fails to disclose that **the mirror body is fixed to the mirror base only at the support piece**. As shown in Fig. 1 in Perry, although a mirror mounting mechanism (16), a mirror casing (18) and a mirror (20) are received and secured by three sleeves (60a-c) of a mounting bracket (14),³ a mirror shell housing 12 is attached to a door D and encloses the mounting bracket (14).⁴ Thus, unlike the mirror assembly as recited in Claim 19 of the present application, the structure of the reinforcing core cannot be kept simple.

Accordingly, features disclosed in Perry are clearly distinguishable from the specific features recited in Claim 19. Therefore, Claim 19 is believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this

³ See Perry at column 3, lines 1-7.

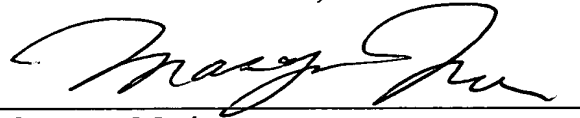
⁴ See Perry at column 2, lines 48-61.

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application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect
is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Masayasu Mori
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 47,301

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

Hiroyuki Yasuda
Registration No. 55,751

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